

## **ISTEP+ Performance Level Descriptors**

### **English/Language Arts – Grade 4**

#### **Grade 4**

##### **Pass+**

*Pass+* students demonstrate advanced understanding when reading, recognizing, and responding to grade-level appropriate text, including genres from previous grade levels. Students experience success when encountering new variations on word meanings and new text-based vocabulary. *Pass+* students display advanced writing skills using appropriate standard English conventions when producing different writing forms, including those introduced in previous grade levels, as well as formal and informal letters.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 4 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- Use the author's purpose and method of organization to understand the meaning of the text
- Describe different imaginative forms of literature (e.g., fables, myths, legends)
- Identify and understand figurative language, such as idioms and metaphors (e.g., idiom: *Time flies when you're having fun!* metaphor: *I'm a night owl.*)
- Understand the story's elements of cause and effect
- Write compositions to describe, explain, and/or persuade, providing additional details to add interest
- Write focused and detailed paragraphs and compositions containing interesting word choices and effectively organized ideas

#### **Grade 4**

##### **Pass**

*Pass* students demonstrate proficient understanding when reading, recognizing, and responding to grade-level appropriate text, including genres from previous grade levels. Students understand many new variations on word meanings and new text-based vocabulary. *Pass* students display satisfactory writing skills using mostly appropriate standard English conventions when producing different writing forms, including those introduced in previous grade levels, as well as formal and informal letters.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 4 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Draw conclusions and make predictions based on informational text
- Identify main ideas and supporting details
- Distinguish between fact and opinion
- Identify main events of a plot and determine the theme of a story
- Identify and understand figurative language, such as similes (e.g., simile: *The diamonds sparkled like the night stars.*)
- Write focused, well-organized paragraphs and compositions that represent a logical order

#### **Grade 4**

##### **Did Not Pass**

*Did Not Pass* students demonstrate limited understanding when reading, recognizing, and responding to grade-level appropriate text, including genres from previous grade levels. Students may have difficulty understanding new variations on word meanings and new text-based vocabulary. *Did Not Pass* students display limited writing skills using basic standard English conventions when producing different writing forms, including those introduced in previous grade levels, as well as formal and informal letters.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 4 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Identify the narrator of a text
- Use many different kinds of words to make writing interesting
- Write for different purposes
- Use context clues to determine multiple-meaning words
- Use a variety of simple and complex sentences when writing
- Correctly spell root words and contractions